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DE RUEHC #3393 0961811
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O R 061751Z APR 09
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 0000

UNCLAS STATE 033393

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: APRIL 6 UN SECURITY COUNCIL MINUSTAH OPEN
DEBATE

¶1. USUN may draw upon the following points during the
April 6 UN Security Council open debate.

Begin points.

-The United States would like to thank the Special
Representative of the Secretary-General, Hedi Annabi for
his briefing today. We welcome the March 6 report of
the
Secretary-General. Let me also thank everyone in Haiti,
the country's leadership and the representatives of the
private sector and civil society, for their warm
reception
during the Security Council visit last month. I am
pleased
that former President Clinton and the Secretary-General
were also able to visit Haiti, bringing much helpful
attention to the situation in the country.

-The United States salutes the work of MINUSTAH, and we
recognize the Mission's bravery and commitment to the
stabilization of Haiti. Thanks to the efforts of
MINUSTAH
and the Haitian people, our Security Council Mission
found
that Haiti is making significant progress in
consolidating
security, including strengthening the Haitian National
Police (HNP). In the area of security, the Mission has
made remarkable gains and we hope that its
accomplishments
will be emulated.

-The gains and the progress, however laudable, are also
fragile. The United States recognizes the extreme
hardships Haiti faces in the wake of the food crisis,
the
global financial crisis, and the hurricanes and storms
that swept across the country last year. These events
could seriously undermine the tenuous security situation
and worsen the poverty and privation of the Haitian
people. We support MINUSTAH's critical efforts to
maintain stability in Haiti, thereby providing the
foundation for growth and development. We should not
view
security and development as separate, but as
intertwined.

-Considering the difficulties of the past year, the
United
States is particularly encouraged by the progress Haiti
has made toward four of the five benchmarks outlined by
the Secretary-General. We recognize, however, that
progress in some key areas has fallen short of
expectations. We remain committed to the Mission and to
Haiti, and we urge the Haitian leadership, the UN, troop
contributing countries, and other partners to remain
engaged and to deepen our common effort to stabilize the

country.

-Despite recent setbacks, the United States is optimistic about the advances that have been made in professionalizing the HNP, which is moving toward the goal of having 14,000 officers in its ranks by 2011. More than 9000 Haitians have already been trained and vetted, and nearly 500 new officers will graduate by the second half of 2009. The United States again commends MINUSTAH, as well as bilateral donors, for their technical support and contributions to building up the HNP's capabilities. To maintain Haiti's national security, it will need its police forces to stand on their own. The United States will work with MINUSTAH to support the expansion of the training facilities at the HNP academy and create specialized and leadership training for the country's forces.

-The United States is seriously concerned about the desperate poverty, malnutrition, lack of education, and other socioeconomic problems that still bedevil Haiti. We stand by the Secretary-General's calls to link the progress in the security sector to coordination and relief efforts. In this regard, the United States looks forward to participating in the April 14 Donors Conference on Haiti hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington. The Conference provides an opportunity for donors and the government of Haiti jointly to move forward on a path for Haiti's recovery and future economic development.

-We congratulate Haitian leaders for their efforts in getting the country back on its feet, and we call on the Government to take advantage of the benefits and prosperity that HOPE II legislation can bring to Haiti. As the Secretary-General has highlighted, HOPE II provides a huge window of opportunity for access to U.S. markets. This program offers Haiti a crucial opportunity to move beyond assistance to genuine economic growth, and above all, job creation. As the Security Council saw during our trip, persistent poverty and unemployment among Haiti's young people have created an environment prone to civil unrest, which threatens to undo many of the advances that have been made in Haiti.

-The Security Council also heard serious concerns about the scourge of drug trafficking in Haiti. The United States is concerned about the impact of international narcotics trafficking on both the people of Haiti and the region. The United States is optimistic that the continued professionalization of the HNP, stabilization efforts, and initiatives to promote sustainable development can achieve progress against narcotics trafficking and related crime. The USG will increase its support for HNP counternarcotics efforts to permit the expansion of law enforcement operations throughout the country, and looks forward to continuing to work with the HNP and MINUSTAH to address these serious issues.

-The United States is encouraged by the constructive political developments that have taken place in Haiti

since 2006, and we are particularly pleased that opposition leaders are free to express their views. The April 19 senate elections are one more step in Haiti's democratic development. We reiterate the need for these elections to be free and fair. We thank MINUSTAH for its continued support of the electoral process, and urge the government of Haiti to continue and intensify efforts to promote an all-inclusive political dialogue and participation.

-As the Secretary-General has underlined, Haiti stands at a cross-roads. While there are real opportunities, there are also real risks. Continued and determined engagement by Haitian authorities, together with enhanced support from the international community, is critical to help Haiti move down toward self-sustaining security, and political and economic stability.

End points.
CLINTON